

My name is Norman Plude and I'm from Seymour Connecticut. I stand before you today against SB 1085 and HB 7371. A little about myself. I have been growing cannabis commercially since 2017 when I was one of the growers at the UConn research farm along with Cody Roberts and Dylan Williams. Since that time I have grown commercially in Oregon and I am currently working with a group of investors acquiring property in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to commercially cultivate cannabis, I am their Master grower. I got into cannabis cultivation when my home was raided in 2016 for growing my own medication. Currently the Connecticut medical marijuana program does not allow patients to cultivate their own medication although by definition we are allowed to possess cannabis whether growing or not as defined by the Connecticut General Statute 21A - 240. I got into the Cannabis business because my medication, RAW cannabis, is not available at any Connecticut medical marijuana dispensary. To this date no bill has been brought forward, although, on many occasions I have testified that Connecticut medical marijuana patients need the capacity to cultivate their own medication as a medical necessity. With the adult-use cannabis bills before us I was hoping that through the stroke of your pen that patients would finally have the opportunity to grow medicine that we so desperately need. This is our only hope. We have a medical marijuana program, we know that cannabis has medicinal purposes and we should not deny its full benefit to anyone. Medical patients in this state consume a huge amount of cannabis, far above any recreational user would. We do not get in traffic accidents any more than anyone else. We hold onto jobs, we have families and most importantly we are now contributing to society. We are not sick from the use of our cannabis, as a matter of fact it gets us healthy. I believe that all nonviolent marijuana offenses should be expunged not just the small amount offenses. With that all cannabis convictions should be cleared since 1937. Although no official records are available, a quick survey using social media

determined that Connecticut patients are being arrested at a rate of 1 in 500 for marijuana offenses. That is almost double the Connecticut average. This has to stop. We are patients we are not prisoners. So for those reasons I am not in favor of SB 1085 or HB 7371, these bills, the way they are written, only hurt Connecticut and everyone that lives in our state. It's time to heal our families. It's time to right the wrongs that have been going on for 80 years. All we ever hear from Hartford is "it's time to do the right thing". It's time to stand up Hartford, It's time Governor Lamont, it's time everyone in this room to do the right thing. It's time to do away with our archaic thinking of mandatory minimums. It's time to step up to the 21st century.

Thank You
Norman Plude
Seymour, CT